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CONVERSION IN MODERN ENGLISH

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Conversion is the derivational process whereby an item changes its word-class without the addition of an affix [1, p. 411]. The historical development of conversion has its deep roots. Firstly the term “conversion” appeared in the book by Henry Sweet ‘New English Grammar’ in 1891. Conversion as a way of creating new words has been being a feature of English since the 13th century. Conversion had been on the focus of linguistic research of L. Bloomfield, G. Marchand, O.Smirnitsky, I. Arnold, Z. Harytonchyk and other theorists for a long time. Nowadays the number of conversion is extremely increasing, so it is very important to examine some new trends of conversion. 100 conversions selected from the Internet were the material for our research. To study conversion of new trends we conducted their quantitative analysis.

The results show that noun to verb conversion ($N \rightarrow V$) is the most productive form in modern English (45 items out of 100). For example, *Google – to google, a microwave – to microwave, a friend – to friend, a showroom – to showroom, a whitelist – to whitelist*. The model $V \rightarrow N$ takes the second place in our research (23 items out of 100). For example, *to call – a call, to judge – a judge, to command – a command, to clone – a clone*. Moreover, there is a tendency to form new nouns by conversion from phrasal verbs and verbs with postpositions: *to come back – come-back, to give-back – give-back*. Noun to verb conversion and verb to noun conversion are the most productive because the basic form of nouns and verbs is identical in many cases [2, c.160]. For example, when the verbs express state of mind or state of sensation (*feel, experience, fear*), name events or activities (*attack, alert, laugh*), have instrumental meaning (*hammer*), express the action of putting in or on the noun (*practice, pocket, film*), denote an action performed at the time denoted by the noun from which they have been converted (*winter, weekend*), denote instant of an action (*move, jump*).

Verbs converted from adjectives ($A \rightarrow V$) take the third place (16 items out of 100). For example, *elder – to elder, green – to green (to make environmentally friendly), slim – to slim*. Adjective to noun conversion ($A \rightarrow N$) takes the next place (10 items). For example, *rich – the rich, good*

– *the good*. Formation of a noun from an adjective is a complex process. Because these parts of speech have significant changes in their semantic structure. It is important to note that the number of conversion of adjectives with the suffix *-ic* is rapidly increasing : *acrylic* (акриловий) — *acrylic* (акрил). This feature is typical for the scientific terms. Other types of conversion are not very productive. There are only 3 items out of 100 with conjunction to noun conversion ($C \rightarrow N$). For example, *if* - *ifs*, *and* - *ands*, *but* - *buts*. Preposition to noun conversion ($P \rightarrow N$) has 2 examples: *up* - *the ups*, *down* - *the downs*. And interjection to noun conversion ($I \rightarrow N$) has only 1 example out of the total number of the research conducted: *ho ho ho* - *the ho ho ho*.

Table 1 - Quantitative analysis of different types of conversion

N→V	V→N	A→V	A→N	C→N	P→N	I→N
45 %	23%	16%	10%	3%	2%	1%

Modern English is rich in convertible couples. The phenomenon of conversion requires monitoring and fixing features of its functioning. There are many models of conversion, which play an important role in creating new words. But $N \rightarrow V$ conversion (the formation of new verbs from nouns) is considered to be the most productive. Conversion will be more active in the future, and so, it will create a great part of the new words appearing in the English language [3,c.415].

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